Dear Brethren in the Lord

Gambier June 13. 1834

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I am directed by the Society
Mis.
of Enquiry lately established in this Institution
to address the following communication to you.

We have associated ourselves together for the purpose of obtaining Missionary & other religious intelligence & also of cultivating more of the Missionary Spirit in our own hearts. The age and character of your Institution lead us to hope that a correspondence may be of great service to us now in our infancy. The object is one upon which you have long bestowed your attention and as we trust not in vain. Many have gone from among you who have made glad the city of our God. Their names will be long cherished as especially dear to every Christian's heart. Through their instrumentality many will shine as the stars in the firmament for ever & ever. The great work of Evangelizing the world is now fairly commenced and Christians of every name and tongue are called upon to unite their efforts. Here is a ground upon which all can meet — here is a field in which all may labour. We rejoice that it is so. We hope the day is not far distant when there shall be but one heart & one hand in the great work of saving souls.

The Missionary stands on elevated ground – he is lifted above the divisions & distinctions of this world. May God grant us grace that we may sacrifice all our personal feelings and prejudices upon the Altar of infinite love. In your Institution we have a noble & ample of Christian benevolence – a benevolence that is not Narrowed down to any particular limit, but is now spending itself upon every object of want in every clime & in every land. We wish to imitate it. But we have just commenced, our numbers are few, our means limited, yet we hope there is a spark of Missionary zeal among us. May it be kindled to a flame ——

It may be interesting for you to know something of our condition. We are in a measure situated in Missionary grounds. When this Institution was first planted the region around us was in a very destitute condition. Many families were without the word of God and iniquity prevailed to an alarming extent. Our efforts were directed to stay, if possible, the progress of Error & introduce the Religion of Jesus. As a result of our Exertions, we have in the vicinity of the College 17 Sunday Schools under the immediate charge of Students. These are all flourishing. In a number of places religious meetings are regularly held on the Lords day. In these meetings the simplest & most possible is adopted for communicating Religious instruction – Many attend who have had no advantages and are consequently in the depths of ignorance

We have established some 6 or 7 Temperance Societies which seem to be doing much good

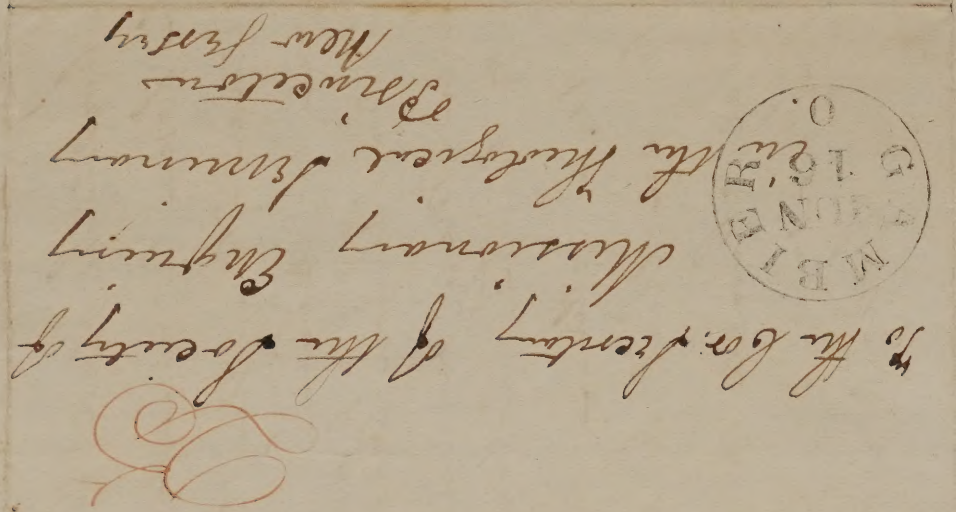
We would hope that our labours will not be altogether in vain. We feel our weakness and would lift our hearts to God who is Mighty to Save

We should be glad if you would favour us with some account of your Society its Mode of Operation & any thing else which you may [redacted] useful or Edifying

We are fully of the opinion that the Missionary Spirit is one which may be cultivated and we are anxious to know the best method of doing it. Now dear brethren let us lift our united prayers to God that he would pour upon the universal Church More & More of the truly Missionary Spirit

Yours in Christ

H. Dyer

Written in behalf of the Society of Enquiry in Kenyon College

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